

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-12 RSR-01 /122 W

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R 112336 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4299

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2067

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJ: PDC JUNTA PREPARATIONS

1. SUMMARY. TO REDUCE DISPLAY OF INTRA- PARTY FRICTIONS, PDC PRESIDENT RENAN FUENTEALBA HAS ANNOUNCED HE WILL NOT SEEK REELECTION AT WEEKEND JUNTA. FREISTAS ARE OPENLY ENDORSING LIST LED BY SENATOR AYLWIN. SOME BELIEVE SENATOR OLGUIN WILL EMERGE IN COMPROMISE BETWEEN PARTY' S RIGHT AND LEFT, BUT MOST CONCEDE NEW NATIONAL COUNCIL WILL HAVE MORE FREISTA COMPLEXION THAN OLD. FREI, WE UNDERSTAND, IS CONSIDERING ACCEPT- ING SENATE PRESIDENCY. END SUMMARY.

2. LONG- DEFERRED PDC NATIONAL JUNTA SCHEDULED MEET IN SANTIAGO MAY 12-13. MAIN ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR 500-600 DELEGATES WILL BE ELECTION OF NEW PARTY LEADERSHIP. (PARTY PRESIDENT RENAN FUENTEALBA HAS LED NATIONAL COUNCIL SINCE NOVEMBER 1971.) AT MID- WEEK TWO COMPETING SLATES WERE BEING PUBLICLY CIRCULATED BY PDC PARLIAMENTARIANS-- A " LEFTWING" ONE COMPRISING CURRENT EXECUTIVE BOARD (FUENTEALBA, BERNARDO LEIGHTON, OSVALDO OLGUIN, FELIPE AMUNATEGUI AND BELISARIO VELASCO) AND A FREISTA LIST TOUTING SENATOR PATRICIO AYLWIN FOR THE PRESIDENCY, ACCOMPANIED BY SENATOR RAFAEL MORENO, ERNESTO VOGEL, JAIME RAVINET OR POSSIBLY SENATOR JUAN HAMILTON. MARCO ANTONIO ROCCA OR RAUL TRONCOSO. FUENTEALBA, LEIGHTON AND VELASCO ISSUED JOINT STATEMENT MAY 10 SAYING
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THEY WOULD NOT BE CANDIDATES FOR REELECTION.

3. OUR PDC SOURCES, SOMEWHAT CHAGRINED AT ALL THE PUBLICITY, CONSIDER ALL SUCH LISTS TRANSACTIONAL, AND AS IS USUALLY THE CASE, BELIEVE BARGAINS WILL BE STRUCK IN THE CORRIDORS. SENATOR OSCALDO OLGUIN IS STILL BEING TALKED ABOUT AS A COMPROMISE CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY. MOST SOURCES EXPECT NEW LEADERSHIP TO HAVE A MUCH MORE PRONOUNCED FREISTA CAST, WHATEVER NAMES EMERGE. EARLY SPECULATION THAT FREI HIMSELF MIGHT ASK FOR THE PARTY LEADERSHIP (HE COULD NOT BE DENIED, AT THIS JUNCTURE) , HAS DISSIPATED. WE UNDERSTAND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE FEELING WITHIN PDC THAT FREI SHOULD BECOME PRESIDENT OF NEW SENATE.

4. NEW LEADERSHIP' S FIRST TASK WILL BE TO COME TO SOME DECISION ON WHETHER TO COLLECTIVELY CENSURE AND REMOVE ENTIRE CABINET FOR ABUSE OF DECREE OF INSISTENCE MECHANISM. FUENTEALBA LEADERSHIP HAS PONDERED THIS STEP INCONCLUSIVELY FOR PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. SOME BELIEVE THAT GROUNDSWELL MAY DEVELOP AT JUNTA ITSELF TO COMPEL SUCH DECISION. OUR SOURCES POINT OUT THAT THE SECOND AND THIR- LEVEL PROVINCIAL FIGURES WHO HAVE HEAVY REPRESENTATION IN JUNTA RE IN UGLY ANTI- GOVERNMENT MOOD. DAVIS

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